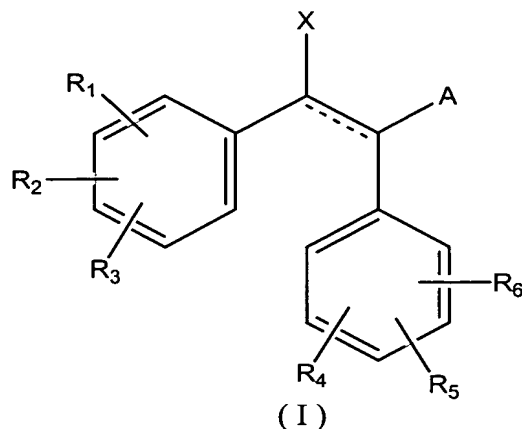


**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR, -CONR'R'', -CN, or -COR<sub>7</sub> wherein R, R', R'' and R<sub>7</sub> are defined below;

X = H, OH, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups group, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo;

R = H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, and R<sub>7</sub> are independently H; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups optionally substituted; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> acylamino; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> acyloxy; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkanoyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO<sub>2</sub>; SO<sub>2</sub>R'''; CZ<sub>3</sub>, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together, or R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups; groups.

~~with the proviso that when X, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> are H, R<sub>4</sub> is p-hydroxy; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together are 3,5-dimethoxy; then the dotted line is not a double bond in the E configuration.~~

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A= -COOR.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A= ~~COOR~~, X, A = -COOR; R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are H; R<sub>4</sub> is p-hydroxy; and R<sub>1</sub> R<sub>2</sub> together are 3,5-dimethoxy; ~~and the dotted line is a double bond in the Z configuration.~~ 3,5-dimethoxy.
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is H.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is Na<sup>+</sup>.
7. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is p-hydroxy; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together are 3,5-dimethoxy and the dotted line represents a double bond.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9 which is suitable for oral administration.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of~~ claims claim 1 ~~to 8~~ in a physiologically acceptable carrier, wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z; R = H, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion.

14. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein R is H or Na<sup>+</sup> and said double bond is in the E-configuration.

15. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein R is H or Na<sup>+</sup> and said double bond is in the Z-configuration.

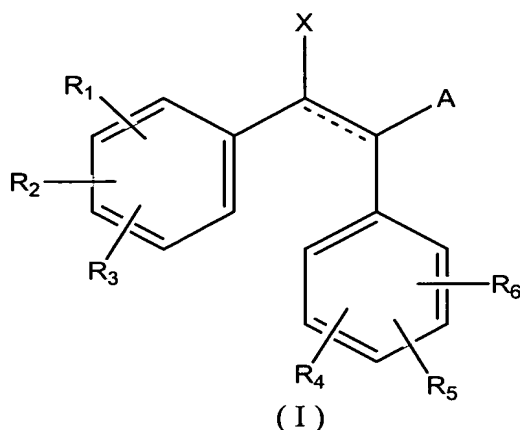
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15, wherein R is Na<sup>+</sup>.

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 14, wherein R is Na<sup>+</sup>.

18. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein said composition is suitable for oral administration.

19-23. (Cancelled).

24. (New) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR<sub>8</sub> or -CONR'R'', wherein R<sub>8</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or aryl or arylalkyl, and R' and R'' are defined below;

X = H, OH, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo, wherein R is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> are independently H; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups optionally substituted; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> acylamino; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> acyloxy; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkanoyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO<sub>2</sub>; SO<sub>2</sub>R'''; CZ<sub>3</sub>, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl; or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together, or R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups.

25. (New) The compound of claim 24, wherein A is -CONR'R''.

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (New) A composition according to claim 25 which is suitable for oral administration.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 27, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (New) A composition according to claim 28 which is suitable for oral administration.